GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1615
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2007
IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND REFORMS ACT
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for effective implementation of Land Reforms Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether additional land has been distributed among the poor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (e): Land and its management falls within the exclusive legislative and administrative jurisdiction of the respective States as provided under Entry No.18 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The role of the Central Government in the field of land reforms is only advisory and coordinating. However, implementation of Land Reforms Programmes is reviewed from time to time at various fora including Conferences of Revenue Ministers and Revenue Secretaries of the States/UTs organized by the Ministry of Rural Development.

As on 30.9.2006, the total quantum of land declared surplus in the country was 68.73 lakh acres, of which 60.27 lakh acres have been taken possession of and 49.00 lakh acres distributed to 54.01 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 16 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. 8.44 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land is involved in litigation in various courts. The State Governments have been requested for undertaking a special drive to get the court cases disposed of, especially the cases pending in Revenue Courts. They have also been requested for setting up Land Tribunals under Article 323-B of the Constitution and for setting up Special Benches in High Courts for speedy disposal of the pending cases.

In addition, 148.55 lakh acres of govt. wasteland and 16.57 lakh acres of Bhoodan land have been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

The State Govts. have provided ownership rights to 125.85 lakh tenants covering and area of 167.16 lakh acres.

Further, 3.76 lakh acres of alienated tribal land has been restored to the tribal community.

An area of 1739.01 lakh acres has been consolidated in the country.